

LIBRARY Marlborough and Ramsbury
Rural District Council

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR 1947

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit—on behalf of Dr. A. H. Wilson, who retired on 31st December, 1947—the Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of your district, for the year 1947.

This report is brief, and is in accordance with instructions received from the Ministry of Health in their circular 13/47 dated 13th March, 1947.

I would like to acknowledge the assistance given by the Sanitary Inspector in compiling this report.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

D. L. JOHNSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

Rudge Farm House,
Froxfield, Marlborough.

VITAL STATISTICS

I.	Population—Census 1931	...	...	10,721
	„ —Estimated Mid 1947	...	...	9,515
	Area	...	...	94,511 acres
	Rateable Value	...	...	£49,828
	Sum represented by Penny Rate	...	...	£210
	Number of Inhabited Houses as shown by			
	Rate Books at the end of 1947	...	...	3,064
II.	Births 1947	Male	Female	Total
	Live	112	108	220 (13 illegitimate)
	Still	1	1	2 (1 illegitimate)
	Birth Rate 1947		Rural District	England & Wales
	Live		23.1	20.5
	Still		0.2	0.5
III.	Deaths 1947	Male	Female	Total
		73	71	144
	Death Rate 1947		Rural District	England & Wales
			15.1	12.0
IV.	Number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age			
		Male	Female	Total
		6	3	9 (1 illegitimate)
	Infant Mortality Rate		Rural District	England & Wales
	(per 1,000 live births)		40.9	41.0

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total cases Notified</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Total death</i>
Scarlet Fever	22	10	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0	0
Opthalmia Neonatorum	1	0	0
Pneumonia	13 (2 Mil)	0	1
Erysipelas	5	1	0
Measles	135	0	0
Whooping Cough	25	0	0
Paratyphoid B	1	1	0
Poliomyelitis	5 (4 Mil)	1	0

Scarlet Fever. 22 cases were notified, all but three in the first half of the year. Except for four cases occurring in one household, they occurred sporadically in various parts of the district.

Diphtheria. No notifications during the year.

Pneumonia. Thirteen cases were notified, two among Service personnel. One civilian case was fatal.

Erysipelas. Five cases were notified and one was admitted to hospital. All recovered.

Measles. There were 135 notifications, 22 in February and 25 in July, the remainder being distributed fairly evenly throughout the year.

Whooping Cough. Of the 25 notifications 15 were in the Shalbourne area. Nine of these originated in March, and further sporadic cases occurred there during the ensuing two months.

Puerperal Pyrexia. One case was notified and was treated at home.

Opthalmia Neonatorum. One case was notified, and was treated at home.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever. No notifications during the year.

Poliomyelitis. Five cases were notified, four of them being amongst military personnel at Ogbourne St. George. The one civilian case, a child aged 2½ years, was treated in hospital. All recovered.

Paratyphoid. One case occurred at Aldbourne, and was confirmed as Paratyphoid B. The patient recovered, and although investigations were made amongst Ps.o.W. with whom he had been working, no carrier was discovered.

Tuberculosis. Four new cases were notified, the details being as follows :—

One Male, Pulmonary, age 59

One Female, Pulmonary, age 82

One Female, Pulmonary, age 17

One Male, Non-Pulmonary, age 17.

There were five deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Immunisation against Diphtheria. During 1947 101 children under 5, and 47 between 5 and 15, were immunised against diphtheria, and 146 children received reinforcement doses. This brings the total number of children under 15 who are immunised to 1747, out of the District's estimated child population of 2214.

WATER SUPPLY

1. There are at present three Piped Public Water Supplies in the district, which are as follows :—

(a) Baydon (where the water is obtained from the Rural District Council of Hungerford).

(b) Aldbourne, Ramsbury and Chilton Foliat.

(c) Great Bedwyn and Chisbury.

There are abundant supplies in each of these three areas, all of which are of excellent quality. The water is chlorinated at Ramsbury pumping station and at the works supplying the water to the tower at Baydon. Bacteriological samples taken during the year all proved satisfactory.

The water supplies to the other parishes in the district are private piped supplies to estates and farms and adjoining cottages ; wells to individual properties, or wells shared by a number of houses. In a number of cases farmers supply water to parts of the villages adjoining. In several parishes, especially during drought periods—and 1947 was particularly dry—a number of wells dried up entirely, and in others the water was in short supply.

The Council therefore drew up schemes for water supply to other parts of the District, and intend to supply piped water to practically the whole area.

During 1947 a trial borehole was sunk at Clatford in connection with the Council's Avebury and Broad Hinton Water Scheme. The results of the borehole were highly satisfactory, as abundant water was found, and proved to be of good quality. This supply is to be used to supply water to the parishes of Preshute, Fyfield, West Overton, East Kennett, Avebury, Winterbourne Monkton, Winterbourne Bassett, Berwick Bassett and Broad Hinton.

Further Schemes for supplying water to Shalbourne, Grafton, Ogbourne St. Andrew and Ogbourne St. George are in preparation; the provision of water for Mildenhall and Axford is also being investigated.

2. As the water supply in this area is practically all from chalk, there is no risk of any plumbo-solvent action.

3. No action was taken during the year in respect of any water contamination.

4. 884 houses, with a population of 2,652 are supplied by Public Water Supplies. This is an increase of 106 houses on the 1946 figure.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

There are no public sewerage schemes other than the system of sullage water drainage installed by the Savernake Estate Company many years ago in the village of Great Bedwyn, which system is now completely worn out. During the year detailed plans and specification of the proposed sewerage scheme for Ramsbury were prepared and transmitted to the Ministry of Health for approval. Other drainage Schemes for provision of sewerage to other villages have been put forward to the Council, and they have adopted them in principle.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

On inspection, chiefly in the outlying parts of the district a number of privies are to be found, but the number is diminishing.

During the year eight privies were converted into pail closets, and eight pail closets were converted into water closets, as the result of drainage to the premises.

The number of these conversions would have been increased if the individuals concerned had been able to obtain licences to carry out this type of work—these were only granted in special circumstances.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The refuse collection for the area is carried out by a 10-cubic-yard Dennis Refuse Vehicle, with a driver, a loader and one tip man. The whole of the refuse is taken to one central tip, adjacent to the Golden Arrow, and is disposed of by controlled tipping in the "Bradford" method.

During the year the Council agreed to the employment of the tip man, and he started work in April. It was therefore possible to adjust the rounds slightly, and the following parishes now receive a regular fortnightly collection: East Kennett, West Overton, Fyfield, Preshute, Ogbourne St. Andrew, Ogbourne St. George, Aldbourne, Ramsbury, Great Bedwyn and Little Bedwyn. The rest of the district receives a four-weekly collection.

SALVAGE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The collection of salvage continues, and the quantity obtained during 1947 was an increase over the previous year. The collection of paper and rags is still a vital necessity, and it appears that it will continue to be so for some considerable time. The value of salvage collected during the year was £184 10s. 9d. as against £116 4s. 11d. for 1946.

MILK SUPPLIES

The inspection of cowsheds and dairies has continued, and the general standards of cleanliness have been maintained.

There is a growing tendency amongst milk producers to consider the production of one of the designated milks, either Accredited or Tuberculin Tested: all possible help and encouragement is given to ensure that this tendency continues. Of the 147 producers in the district 44 are licensed for production of Tuberculin Tested Milk, and 36 for production of Accredited Milk. Samples of these products are taken regularly by the County Council, to see that they comply with the requirements of their particular grade, and we are informed if any of these samples are unsatisfactory.

LEGAL ACTION

No legal action was taken during the year.

HOUSING

3 Statutory Notices were served during the year.

Demolition Orders were made on three cottages, which had been reported to the Council as not being capable of being repaired at a reasonable cost.

Four houses were made fit for human habitation as a result of Statutory Notices, and 37 as a result of informal action during the year.

During 1947 sixty-nine houses were inspected for the purpose of the Housing Survey.

NEW HOUSING PROGRAMME

Thirty-nine permanent houses were in course of erection at the close of the year, in the following parishes: Great Bedwyn, 13; Aldbourne, 4; West Overton, 12; Grafton, 10.

In addition, tenders were accepted and approved for four houses at Ramsbury.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

All the slaughtering for the district is carried out in the Government Controlled Slaughterhouses situated in the Borough of Marlborough.

No. of Licensed Slaughterhouses ...	...	...	Nil
Notices received of regular slaughter ...	...	...	Nil
Notices received of casual slaughter ...	...	...	1
Number of condemnations, Meat ...	...	...	1
Number of condemnations, other foods in shops etc.			8

MILK AND DAIRIES

Number of wholesale Producers registered ...	...	147
Number of Retail Purveyors registered ...	...	50
Approximate number of Cows ...	...	5,750

INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT

Housing ...	...	...	...	...	113
Infectious Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	46
Factories ...	...	...	...	...	9
Refuse Collection ...	...	...	...	...	124
Unclassified Visits and Inspections—					
Water Samples, Petroleum Inspections, Council					
Houses Enquiries etc. ...	...	...	...	...	171
New Buildings and Drainage ...	...	...	...	...	301
TOTAL					767

INSPECTIONS	No. of Inspections	No. of Defects	Informal Notices	Statutory Notices	Remedied by 3	Remedied by 4	Remedied after verbal notice
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Nuisances ...	294	90	51	—	51	4	33
Slaughterhouses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Knackers' Yards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Places where food is prepared ...	36	9	3	—	3	—	4
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops	113	45	11	—	11	—	34
Butchers' Shops	13	5	—	—	—	—	5
Tents, Vans and Sheds ...	5	1	1	—	1	—	—
Bakehouses ...	24	4	1	—	1	—	3
TOTALS	485	154	67	—	67	4	79

TOTAL CAUSES OF DEATH

CAUSES OF DEATH	M.	F.	CAUSES OF DEATH	M.	F.
All Causes	73	71	Diabetes		1
Typhoid and Paratyphoid			Intra. cran. vasc. lesions	8	6
Cerebro-Spinal Fever			Heart disease	20	21
Scarlet Fever			Other disease circ. syst.	1	6
Whooping Cough	1		Bronchitis		1
Diphtheria			Pneumonia	2	1
Tuberc. of Resp. System	1	4	Other resp. dis.		
Other Forms of Tuberc.			Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	5	
Syphilitic Diseases			Diarrhoea under 2 years		
Influenza		1	Appendicitis	1	
Measles			Other digest. diseases	1	2
Ac Poliomyelitis & Enceph.			Nephritis	2	4
Ac. Inf. Enceph.			Puerp. and Postabort. sepsis		
Cancer of b. cav. ; and			Other maternal causes		
oesoph (M.)	3		Prem. Birth	2	1
uterus (F.)		1	Cong. malf. birth inj. Inf. dis.	4	
Cancer of stomach and			Suicide	2	
duodenum	3	2	Road Traffic Accidents	2	1
Cancer of breast		1	Other violent causes	1	1
Cancer of all other sites	10	12	All other causes	4	5

